

July 21, 2015

BellNews

Fortnightly

Challenging & Supporting each other...



Meet the newest addition to the Bell Community! Asha is a 17-week old guide dog that lives with Zoe H from 1/2T and her family. More inside.



School Tree Day this Friday 24th!

In preparation for School Tree Day, Prep students have been exploring the trees in our school yard and learning all about the importance of trees as habitats for various animals. We are very lucky to be receiving plants donated by Bunnings and Merri Creek Management Committee for the special day. With the assistance of their Grade 1 buddies and some helpful parents the Preps will be planting trees, shrubs and indigenous grasses in three sites; between the western fence and play equipment near the sandpit on the north oval, between the western fence and serpent seating near the south sandpit and in the butterfly garden.

The sites were chosen in consultation with a member of the Strategic Infrastructure Committee. While planning still remains in process, the spaces selected are highly unlikely to be effected by any new buildings.

We still however need to remain open to change. If, for example, we found a plant was doing poorly in a certain position, we might decide we need to move it.

These areas will initially be fenced off, but once established will provide more great spaces to our yard for the students' imaginative play such, as cubbies and 'workshops.' We hope the animals will like it too!

Gardening Club will now be happening on Mondays and Wednesday and parent helpers are welcome to meet us in the Early Learning Centre and join in. Sometimes scheduled times may change due to school events so if you are keen, email teachers below beforehand.

Monday 1.40—2.05 email Anna at Buchanan.anna.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

Wed 2.05—2.30 email Ruth at Vonarx.ruth.r@edumail.vic.gov.au

Anna Buchanan



Gardens & Grounds

NATIONAL TREE DAY

Bell PS will be planting trees on Friday the 24th as part of national tree day. Contact Anna Buchanan to help out on Friday or on the preparation days on Tuesday and Thursday. buchanan.anna.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

NEXT WORKING BEE

Sunday August the 2nd at 10 am – 12.30pm. Come along and do some maintenance and plant a few plants. Meet at the site of the old friendship tree (circular bench south side main building)

NEXT G&G SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday 23rd of July at 6pm in the Learning centre.

PATH IMPROVEMENT

You may noticed some improvements to the paths with holes filled in and dirt covered with gravel. Thanks goes to the G&G working bee and the Sunday Crew.

G&G MAILING LIST

If you are interested in going on the Gardens and Grounds mailing list please contact Adrian via email greycliffs@gmail.com

Adrian Whitehead

G&G Convenor

Payments And Reminders

Grades 5/6	Scienceworks	\$15	5th August
Boy's Club	Essendon FC	\$16	
Grades 1,2,3 & 4	Swimming	\$80	



From the Principal's Desk

Please be advised that Wednesday July 22nd is a Curriculum day for 3-Way conferences. Students are only to attend school during their scheduled interview time.

The Victorian Government is building the Education State – supporting all Victorians to live the lives they want to live and get the jobs they need, securing our state's economic and social future.

Every Victorian has an equal right to the knowledge and skills to shape their lives, regardless of their background, their personal circumstances and where they live.

Education influences every corner of our society and our state, and the vision for Victoria as the Education State is about a public guarantee – the guarantee of educational excellence and opportunity in every community.

We want to hear from all Victorians on their ideas and aspirations for the Education State – read the consultation papers,



join in an online discussion and help shape the Education State.

There is a very short time frame for this process with

the closing date being July 31st.

<http://educationstate.education.vic.gov.au/>

Parent Opinion Survey

The 2015 Parent Opinion Survey will be sent out to randomly selected parents this week. We are keen to receive your feedback on what we are doing well and areas of improvement. There is a five day turnaround for this. Surveys will be going home by the end of the week and are due back by Friday 31.7.15.

Staff Update

We are welcoming Nick Carver to our teaching team. Nick has joined us from Brighton Secondary School where he is the music coordinator. We are all looking forward to the music program that he will be leading. Nick is replacing Andrew Williamson who is on leave until 2016.

Annette D'elia has taken up a position at Princes Hill Secondary College as business manager for 1 term. We will miss her around the office but congratulate her on this terrific career move.

Cresten Pearce. Principal.

'Age Appropriate Book Talk' Reminder

Parents, an invitation went home last week inviting you to attend the 'Age Appropriate Book Talk' next Tuesday July 28 at 3:45. It is important that you RSVP to bell.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au to assist with numbers and please let us know if you require supervision for children.

Marg Sneddon

Book Covering

From time to time we have had parents who have very graciously helped us cover books for the library. We would like to have a few more people on the list, where you can either take some books home to cover or stay at school and help us to get some of those jobs done. If you would like to add your name to the list please contact Marg at bellps@edumail.vic.gov.au or pop in and let me know. If you are free on Thursday July 23 at 9:30 please meet Marg in the foyer of the main office and we will meet together and go through the process.

Many Hands Make Light Work and we really would appreciate your help.

Marg Sneddon and Karen Elsbury



From the Art Room

WANTED

To make their artworks this term, Grade 3 – 6 students need tissue boxes, cereal boxes (no cereals with nuts please), shoe boxes or any boxes rectangular and small in shape. If you have any extra boxes, please drop them off in the art room. Each Grade 3/4 student needs a small rectangular box by July 30th.

Thank you kindly,

School Values Certificates

Challenging & Supporting each other...

Bili Lim-Chapple: Bili has demonstrated learning in the classroom. I particularly like the way he enjoys reading and ensures he reads 'just right' books daily at home and in the classroom.

Maia Gilbert: Maia has demonstrated learning in the classroom. I particularly like the way she enjoys reading and ensures she reads 'just right' books daily at home and in the classroom.

George Tongopoulos: Community Responsibility. George is responsible and keeps our classroom neat and tidy. He is a great example and is very helpful to his teacher and peers. Well done George!!!

Remy Deighton: Persistence and Getting Along. Remy never gives up even when tasks or situations get hard. She has a positive attitude that is infectious. Remy is friendly and considerate of her classmates' feelings. Keep it up Remy!!!

Finley Robertson: Finley has been recognised for demonstrating persistence. On camp Finley pushed through when it got tough. After she had a fall she got back on the bike and completed the ride.

Ellison Griffin: Ellison has been recognised for demonstrating teamwork by displaying traits required in order to be an effective team member. She listens and takes on board what other people have to say as well as contributing her own ideas.

Ella Skutenko: Congratulations Ella on persisting with completing more in depth work and not taking the easy way out.

Isaac Taylor-Banks: Congratulations Isaac on persisting with your reading and working on your fluency and phrasing. You have come along in leaps and bounds. It's exciting watching you with your head in a book!

Evie Taylor Constable: Teamwork. For her outstanding work with a partner to produce an accurate and colourful cross-section of the Earth.

Olivia Brouwer: Teamwork. For her outstanding work with a partner to produce an accurate and colourful cross-section of the Earth.

Connor Lester: Learning. For his hard work in writing lessons recently leading to meeting his goal of producing more detailed texts. Well done Connor!

Joel Van Raalte: By diligently working in class time to complete all set work. Awesome effort Joel, keep it up!

Edward Cornwallis: Creativity. By being brave and volunteering to go first and creativity enthusiastic dancing.



For a brilliant Biennale video, visit:

<http://>

[Bellpsarts.global2.vic.edu.au/2015/07/16/bell-biennale-video/](http://bellpsarts.global2.vic.edu.au/2015/07/16/bell-biennale-video/)

For images from the event, please visit:

<http://bellpsarts.global2.vic.edu.au/2015/07/13/bell-biennale-2/>



The artist formerly known as Andrew Williamson.

Housesitting available! House minding wanted 25th September –End December while our house is renovated. We love pets and gardening and are looking for preferably 3 weeks or more at a time.

Cheers, Kate, Paddy, Eve and Leo Ph 0427 266 240



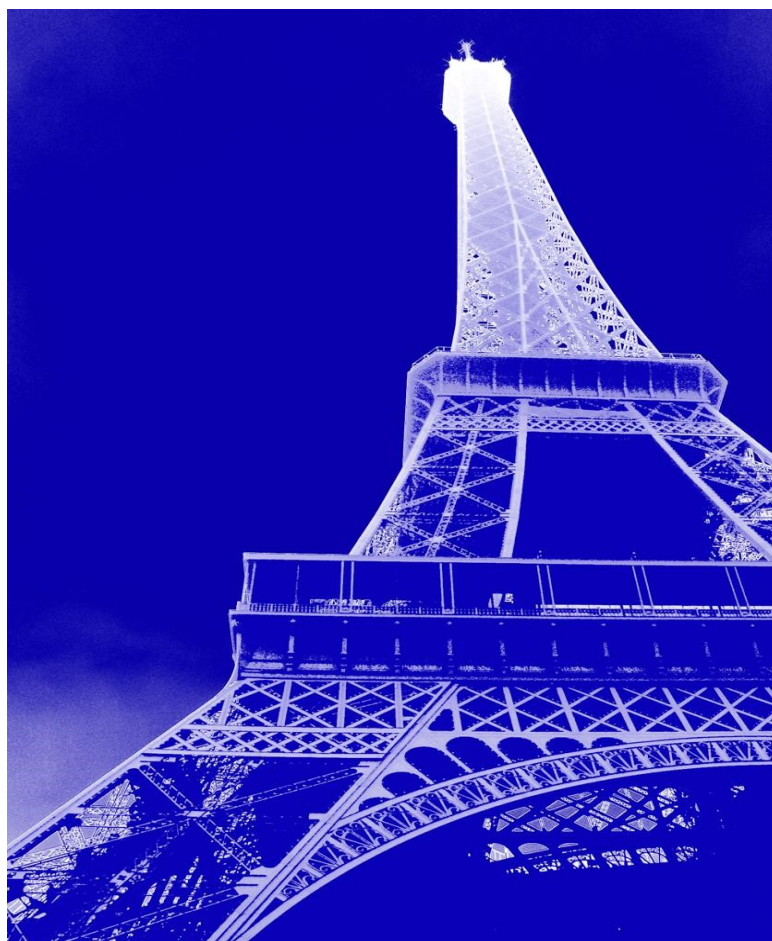
Don't Touch this Cute Dog!

A big thank you to Mary, Zoe and Carmen for introducing us to SEDA Seeing Eye Dog in Training, Asha. Asha has been with the family for several weeks and will remain with them until he is one year old.

Like all pups of this age, Asha can be playful and naughty sometimes BUT usually only when his special training coat is off. He displayed excellent manners on his recent visit and we hope he and Mary will be visiting classes later this year to talk about what an incredible difference these beautiful dogs make to people who are sight impaired.

If you see Asha out on the way to or from school, you're more than welcome to say hello, however, it is very important that you don't touch him when he is wearing his blue jacket!

SEDA still need foster families for guide dogs. If you're interested, catch up with Mary if you see her around or visit this website for further details. <http://seda.visionaustralia.org/puppy-caring/what-to-expect>



Bell French Club

Thursdays 3.45pm–4.45pm (Mezzanine area in main building)

Children of all ages and experience welcome. Come and develop an ear and a feel for French with us.

Awesome preparatory experience for future high school language learners. 2015 Grade 6 parents, reserve your slot now, and give your child a positive head start in language learning.

We are currently at capacity but enquiries are welcome.

Jim Callahan

jim.callahan@lcfclubs.com.au



Keep children safe in public with these 5 ideas

By Catherine Gerhardt

There is a strong shift away from the old rule of “never talk to strangers” to “never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first”. A child who has been taught to never talk to strangers may feel they have nowhere to go if they find themselves lost in a shopping centre or other public place.

As parents we need to emphasise who is a “stranger”. Your definition and your child’s may be quite different. Engage with your children to help them understand that a stranger is simply someone whom they do not know. We do not know if someone is good or bad just by looking at them. Rather, we need to teach our children about “strangeness”, which is way down at the feeling level. This is about helping kids recognise that something doesn’t feel right, and then to trust and act on those feelings.

Five ways to enforce the new rule:

1. Never go anywhere with anyone without asking permission first

This is the new fundamental rule to keeping kids safe. This rule must NEVER be broken. Regardless of if it is a school, public or family function, work with your children to ensure they always ask an adult for permission before going off with ANYONE.

Classic “what if” scenarios are worth their weight in gold. “You are at school and walking back to class after snack when a man comes up to you and says he is looking for his son’s class. He asks you to go with him to show him where it is. Do you go?”

Use tempting scenarios that are relevant to your child, such as puppies or toys, and discuss safe options and strategies in each case.

2. Your personal alarm

Children have an innate sensitive personal alarm, which we can teach them to use. This is their natural defence system. Work with them to identify and recognise the physical and environmental signals that cause their alarm to sound. Knowing that a rush of adrenalin will cause

physiological changes in our bodies and activate our personal alarm is a good start. A child’s personal alarm will present the same physical and emotional cues that an adult’s will.

3. Trust your instincts

Have you ever gotten “the creeps”? Maybe it’s the idea of snakes, mice or heights that does it for your child. Encourage them to draw on how it feels when they get the creeps. Instincts are those feelings you get when something or someone makes you feel uncomfortable. Instincts are the physiological changes that happen to our body when our personal alarm goes off.

Physiological changes include noticing that you feel scared or nervous, your tummy feels upset and your heart is racing. And you know what? Our personal alarm is right 100% of the time.

4. Personal space vs. safety zone

Most kids understand the concept of personal space. How many times have we heard, “Stop invading my personal space!” Most people feel comfortable within an arm’s length of others. However, do your kids recognise their safety zone? Teach your child to be aware of their surroundings. If a “strange” person is too close, suggest they back away and maintain their safety zone. A safety zone is much bigger than your personal space – at least three giant steps bigger.

5. Safe places, safe people

There are times when a child must ask for help quickly and instinctively. We already know that not all strangers are bad, that most strangers will help a child who is lost or upset. It is situations that are safe, not places. Talk with your child and reinforce that he or she must ALWAYS use his or her skills with ALL people, including those presumed safe. Encourage your child to tell an adult they trust when someone or something has frightened them.

As parents we need to empower our children with self-confidence and trust in their ability to sense when something is just not right. It doesn’t matter if they can articulate it; they just have to feel it.

For more ideas to keep kids safe visit the [Daniel Morcombe Foundation](#).

To find out more about Catherine Gerhardt’s great work about keeping kids safe online and offline visit [Kidproofsafety.com.au](#)

Article supplied by Ruth Vonarx and Maria Tevelis @ Bell Welfare.

Join the Band

Bell Primary after school Band Program

Students choose the style,
rehearse and perform the songs
under the guidance of Brendan Gartland

A fully qualified teacher (BMus GDipT),
multi-instrumentalist, arranger and composer
living in Melbourne's North West.

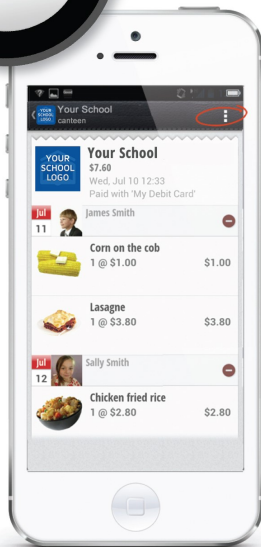
- Group Lessons of 4 -7 students held at Bell Primary
- Styles include Rock, Pop, Jazz
- Parts arranged to your child's ability
- Performance and recording opportunities
- Music theory and music reading is encouraged
- Music is **great** for the brain!!

c. Brendan Gartland
e. brendan@gartlandmusic.com.au
www.gartlandmusic.com.au
m. 0400 133 643

Gartland Music

COMPOSITION ARRANGEMENT PERFORMANCE

Current anaphylaxis training | VIT reg. 349981 | ABN 55 408 370 671



Should I log out from the *Qkr!* app for security?

Qkr!™ is the safe, secure, reliable way to pay for school items. *Qkr!* is provided by MasterCard so you know your payments are secure. No information will be stored on your phone. Registration details and card information are saved securely on the MasterCard network.

As an additional security feature, *Qkr!* automatically logs you out after 10 minutes of inactivity. When this happens, you will still be able to browse the menu and add items to cart, but you will be prompted to enter your password and log in at check out.

If you wish to actively log out after each session, you may do so. However, you won't be able to browse the menu again without logging in. An alternative is simply to change your settings so that you are ALWAYS prompted to enter your password at check out even if you are still within the same ten minute logged in session. This option saves you logging out after each session / logging in each time you wish to view the menu. You will be able to view the menu as normal, safe in the knowledge that *Qkr!* will ALWAYS ask for password confirmation before allowing you to make a payment.

Steps to turn on the "Always prompt for password on checkout" option:

- 1 Open *Qkr!*
- 2 Tap on the three horizontal lines icon at the top left of the screen
- 3 Tap on the word 'Settings'. This will open the settings page and present you with a number of options to personalize the way *Qkr!* works for you
- 4 Near the bottom of the page, you will see an option called "Always prompt for password on checkout" which by default is set to OFF. Slide to change this to ON

Events Calendar

July-August 2015

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
20 9.00 Whole School Assembly 8.45-9.15 Uniform Shop 9.00 Playgroup	21	22 Curriculum Day 3 Way Interviews – Students only to attend with parents at scheduled time.	23 Years 1/2 Scienceworks excursion 3.15-3.45 Uniform Shop	24 Parent Opinion Survey goes home. (Randomly selected families)	25	26
27 Bahay Tulyan Conference 9.00 Jnr Assembly 8.45-9.15 Uniform Shop 9.00 Playgroup	28 3.45-4.45 Parent & Teacher Information Afternoon	29 Prep Excursion to Edendole Farm	30 3.15-3.45 Uniform Shop Years 1-4 Swimming	31 Parent Opinion Survey due back	1	2
3 9.00 Snr Assembly 8.45-9.15 Uniform Shop 9.00 Playgroup	4	5	6 7-9pm School Council Meeting 3.15-3.45 Uniform Shop Years 1-4 Swimming	7	8	9
10 9.00 Whole School Assembly 8.45-9.15 Uniform Shop 9.00 Playgroup	11	12 Boys Club Excursion	13 3.15-3.45 Uniform Shop Years 1-4 Swimming	14	15	16 Sunday Crew
17	18	19 Cr 5/6 Scienceworks excursion	20 Years 1-4 Swimming 7-9pm School Council Meeting 3.15-3.45 Uniform Shop	21	22	23